



Electronic Freight Management (EFM)

What It Is

EFM is the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Intelligent Transportation Systems research initiative that promotes and evaluates innovative e-business concepts, enabling process coordination and information sharing for supply chain freight partners through public-private collaboration. The goal of this initiative is to create a common electronic freight interchange that would improve the speed, accuracy and visibility of information transfer in a freight movement and thus help facilitate freight movement in a more timely and productive manner. This could reap large rewards for the U.S. economy through decreased costs associated with freight shipments.

Current Status

The Columbus Electronic Freight Management (CEFM) project is the current deployment test within the EFM program. CEFM implements all the components of the "freight information highway" necessary to support a select Limited Brands international truck-air-truck supply chain, providing status information on goods shipped from a China-based manufacturer to a distribution warehouse located in Ohio. The detailed design of this test has been completed, and the actual test is expected to run from May through November 2007.

The Year Ahead

Concurrent with the operational test, USDOT is working on an adoption strategy to implement this concept. The first phase of the strategy will be developed around building awareness. Finding industry members who are seeking productivity gains with new information transfer and sharing techniques will be accomplished through joint presentations with project partner champions at key conferences throughout 2007. This will also include key elements necessary to get other shippers and supply chain parties prepared for adoption through critical guidance documentation and technical guidance measures.

For more information go to: <http://www.fih-dot.com>.
